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For Immediate Release

Governors State University Honored as a "Model of Excellence" by University Business Magazine

UNIVERSITY PARK, IL—Governors State University is being honored by *University Business* magazine in its Winter 2015 Models of Excellence edition for its Dual Degree Program (DDP), a partnership with 17 Chicago-area community college partners, including the City Colleges of Chicago, which creates a seamless and structured pathway for community college students to complete both their associate and bachelor's degrees.

GSU is one of only 17 colleges and universities nationwide named by the program, which honors colleges and universities that have implemented innovative, effective initiatives that are bolstering student success.

University Business senior editor Tim Goral said the GSU program stands out for its unique ability to guide students to degree completion. "This is a strong pathway program that truly links a community college to a university. Governors State University's Dual Degree Program recognizes that the transition from a community college to a university is not instinctual for students, and provides appropriate resources to ensure a smooth crossover."

Those resources include sending advisers -- not recruiters -- into the community colleges to help students there plan for the transition to a four-year school whether they plan to attend GSU or another four-year school. In addition to collecting and analyzing enrollment, retention and graduation data, GSU regularly conducts focus groups with its DDP students to solicit their feedback on how to improve the program.

GSU President Elaine P. Maimon said universities must do more to help make sure community college students remain on track to graduate. "Universities have not done anything to inspire students to have a coherent experience at the community colleges," she said. "We at the universities have a responsibility to partner with the community colleges to make sure the students have the best possible chance of having a coherent, quality experience throughout their four years."

Governors State University serves more than 5,500 undergraduate and graduate students with 64 degree and 24 certificate programs that prepare them for success in business, industry, healthcare, the arts and education. As a state university, GSU is committed to providing high-quality, accessible, and responsible higher education opportunities. GSU offers the most affordable undergraduate tuition and fees in the state. GSU is committed to embracing diversity and academic excellence.

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